

April 28, 2009

Transportation:

- Sidewalks around the school are okay, though there are cracks and uneven slopes.
- They think the pedestrian countdown signals are very helpful when walking to judge amount of time to cross the street.
- Henderson and Cloverdale – they do not like walking in this area (do not feel safe) as the police stop teenagers all the time for no reason. One solution is to have more community members (Neighborhood Watch Groups) to circulate the neighborhood more on foot – more people walking = safer.
- The students did think that more people should ride bikes, but too many bicyclists do not follow traffic rules and makes them more of a danger on the roadway. Students who drive see bikers as a hazard. They do not think installing more bike lanes would promote/encourage students to ride their bicycles to school. One student would ride his bike in Seward Park.
- They walk to restaurants, Safeway, mini-marts, gas stations and Ezell's chicken.
- Streets have poor pavement conditions – too many potholes.

Services in station areas:

- The students would like to see a Target, healthy food stores (like Trader Joe's or Whole Foods), trash cans, pedestrian flags to help people cross the street, vending machines, Sonic, and Quiznos.
- They believe that more job opportunities will be created due to more business development (because of Light Rail) and local neighborhood people should have those jobs (including high school students).
- They would like to see a diversity in businesses and diversity of people.
- Lots of talk about their neighborhood vs. the "rich" neighborhoods – they want Rainier Beach to have all amenities that "rich" communities get. "Rich" meaning Bellevue, Kirkland, Madison area in the CD.

Housing/Displacement:

- They are okay with new housing development, but need to ensure that property taxes will not increase for those already in the neighborhood in fear of displacement.
- More black people moving south (outside of City limits) – cannot afford to live in Seattle – with white people moving back to cities, they are displacing the black people (like what happened in the Central District).
- When black people are forced outside of city limits, they need to travel further for jobs.
- A student's niece's daycare was forced out of their location in the neighborhood due to costs.
- Gangs will start to move into Kent and outside of Seattle as people are displaced.
- The students were not sure how to achieve this, but feel it is important for the people that currently live in the neighborhood to be able to stay in the neighborhood.
- They would want to their future kids to grow up in areas where other families live and in diverse communities – where the neighborhood is "real."

Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop with Members of the Youth Community

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Parks:

- The students like Seward Park – they use the loop walking trails (one student would bike the trails), they have family gatherings, BBQs, and like to chill out and look at the water. Seward Park does need a new ice cream truck!
- Too much graffiti in parks
- Many of the parks need an upgrade (renovations)
- Would like more programming (like summertime lunches in the park) for students to use the parks more frequently.